UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED SEP 1 7 1975

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Punchbowl is a volcanic crater whose origins are lost in the early geological history of the Hawaiian Islands. Approximately oval in shape, the rim rises 461 feet above sea level affording a view of Diamond Head, Pearl Harbor and the city of Honolulu from a natural overlook. The floor of the crater, 330 feet above sea level, was developed in 1946 into the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

The use of careful landscaping and flat grave markers has been enhanced by the impressive memorial erected by the American Battle Monuments Commission. This monument is now as much a Monolulu landmark as the Functional Crater itself.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a site of pre-historic significance, Punchbowl had a deep religious meaning for the Hawaiian people long before the advent of Western contact with the islands in 1778. It was known as "puowaina," roughly translated as "hill of sacrifice," where offenders of certain "kapus" (tabus) were taken to be sacrificed.

Punchbowl also played a major role in the Battle of Muuanu in 1795. According to several accounts, the heisu (place of worship) of Kanelauu, one of several such heisus associated with the main Puowains heisu, was the site where the battle began. The invading Maui forces of Kamehameha pursued the Oshu army of Kalanikupule around the Papakoles side of the volcano, forcing the latter to retreat into the Nuuanu Valley. The Oshu army was conquired after attempting to make stands in strongly fortified heisus in the valley. By the time they reached the cliffs of Pali, the Oshu army was defeated, the Chief wounded and the women and children trying desperately to escape over the Pali.

The Battle of Numanu cleared the way for the unification of the islands into a kingdom under Kamehameha. Punchbowl became important early in the Monarchy as a strategic gun emplacement. John Young; an English seaman who became Kamehameha's Kuhina nui (powerful executive officer) helped him fortify Honolulu in response to Russian presence in the islands. 1

Alexander Baranov, chief manager of the Russian-American company in Alaska, sent Georg Anton Schaffer to Hawaii early in the 19th century seeking compensation for a ship which was damaged in a storm near Waimea, Kauai. The Russian presence increased with the construction of Fort Elizabeth in Rauai and the raising of the Russian flag over various locations including a warehouse in Honoluly. Young feared the Russians would attempt to colonize in support of their sandalwood trade.

On the King's orders. Young constructed a fort at the Honoluly:harbor and placed heavy guns stop the crater of Funchbowl hill.

In 1847 there were eleven guns and 33 officers stationed at Fort Puovaina cording to one source. Other sources list two ceremonial guns named "Kolola" \ "Kalahikikiola." Other than ceremonial purposes, the guns were not used \1 1895.

1. The position of Kuhina nui was not formally established until the death of Kamehameba I in 1819.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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In an attempt to restore the Hawaiian Throne to the deposed Queen Liliuokalani, Royalist Captain Samuel Nowlein led an attack against repulican forces holding the Puowaina gun positions. Nowlein and his men were forced to surrender because of the superior stategic position of the guns atop the crater.

Before World War II, the area was used as a training ground for the Hawaii National Guard. When the war broke out the Hawaiian Separate Coast Artillery Brigade planned to install a full battery of four 15 mm cannons for defense against an attack from the sea. Therefore, the gun implacements were designed for coastal attack. There is no evidence to show that the guns were ever fired, either during the attack on Pearl Harbor or any other raid during the war. The crater did serve as an observation and fire control point in the harbor defense system.

On January 4, 1949, the Punchbowl crater again became a "Hill of Sacrifice," when an unknown servicemen, killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, became the first American buried in the newly established National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

In July of that same year the cemetery offically opened with the interment of Pacific theatre casulaties, including world renowned war correspondent Earnie Pyle.

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific was originally designed in a style similar to the American cemeteries dedicated in Europe following World War I, with row upon row of simple white crosses. Local opposition to a National Cemetery which, by use of the crosses as grave markers, implied a "Christian" cemetery led to the removal, in 1951, of all crosses. These were replaced by simple flat markers upon which could be incised any one of several religious designations -- the cross, the Wheel of Buddah, the Muslin crescent and star, the Eastern cross, the Star of David, the cross and crown, or the Greek cross.

Interred in this National Cemetery, lie many of the deceased of the 442 Regimental Combat Team the most decorated of World War II. This Japanese unit fought a double war, against the enemies of the United States, and against their own government for the right to wear their country's uniform and serve, despite fears that because of their Japanese backgrounds, their loyality to their country might be in doubt.

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Here lie 22 recipients of the Medal of Honor, this country's highest award for valor.

In the Courts of the Missing, are inscribed the names of 26,287 Americans whose remains were not recovered or who were buried at sea. On these memorials, tablets are the names of 26 who for their extraordinary valor were also granted in the Medal of Honor.

Following the Korean conflect, all of the unknown dead from the war were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The one who does not now rest here with his comrades-in-arms, was reinterred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is a final resting place for those whose sacrifices have preserved America's freedoms. Here a grate-ful nation pays perpetual respect to the men and women who have protected and defended this nation for us and for our children.

